

ABSOLUTE RATING: Average
IMPROVEMENT RATING: Below Average

Number of districts with students like ours: 19.

The absolute ratings for those districts ranged from below average to good. For improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to average.

Definitions of District Rating Terms

Excellent- District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

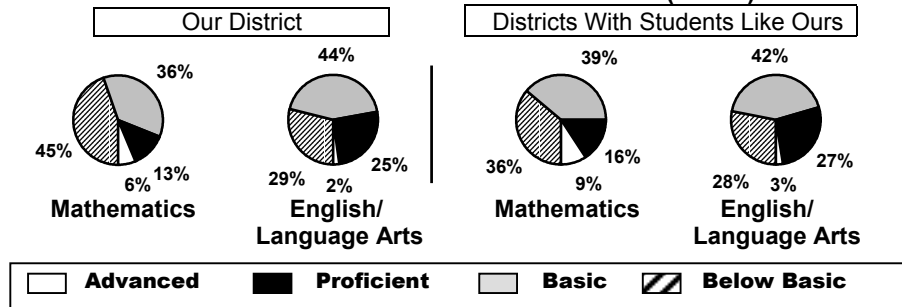
Good- District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average- District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Below Average- District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory- District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

Student Group	Percent of Seniors Passing the Exit Exam	Percent of Seniors Qualifying for LIFE Scholarships	Percent of Students Scoring Basic or Above on the PACT	
			ELA	Math
All Students	91.2%	23.0%	71.1%	55.4%
Students with disabilities other than Speech	75.0%	0.0%	43.8%	28.5%
Students without disabilities	91.8%	24.6%	75.2%	59.3%
Gender				
Male	89.3%	24.6%	68.6%	56.6%
Female	91.9%	37.0%	75.1%	55.3%
Ethnic Group				
African-American	83.8%	7.8%	59.4%	41.2%
Hispanic	100.0%	0.0%	65.6%	40.6%
White	96.0%	36.0%	85.6%	72.2%
Other	75.0%	50.0%	93.8%	86.2%
Lunch Status				
Free/ Reduced-Price Lunch	81.4%	5.8%	59.5%	41.9%
Pay for Lunch	94.3%	28.5%	86%	72.1%

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	First-time Examinees		
	1999	2000	2001
Our district			
Passed all 3 subtests	63.2%	68.6%	73.2%
Passed 2 subtests	18.4%	17.7%	15.4%
Passed 1 subtest	10.7%	9.4%	7.6%
Passed no subtest	7.7%	4.3%	3.7%
Districts with students like ours			
Passed all 3 subtests	63.5%	67.0%	69.0%
Passed 2 subtests	18.5%	17.4%	16.5%
Passed 1 subtest	10.8%	10.0%	9.2%
Passed no subtest	7.2%	5.6%	5.4%

LIFE scholarships at four-year institutions

	Eligible	Percent of Seniors Meeting Grade Point Average Requirement	Meeting SAT/ACT Requirement
		53.0%	23.7%
Our District	23.0%		
Districts Like Ours	20.5%	53.3%	21.8%

College Admissions Tests: Tests that are frequently used in the college admissions process.

	SAT Verbal		SAT Math		SAT Total		ACT English		ACT Math		ACT Reading		ACT Science		ACT Total	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
District	475	476	464	470	939	946	19.0	19.6	20.0	19.2	19.4	20.0	19.8	20.0	19.7	19.9
State	484	486	482	488	966	974	18.7	18.8	19.2	19.3	19.5	19.5	19.2	19.2	19.3	19.3
Nation	505	506	514	514	1019	1020	20.5	20.5	20.7	20.7	21.4	21.3	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0

These tests were administered to samples of students:

Terra Nova Test: A national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percent scoring in upper half

	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Grade 4	47.8	50.0	43.1	50.0	58.4	50.0	50.5	50.0
Grade 7	45.8	50.0	59.4	50.0	54.7	50.0	53.9	50.0
Grade 10	59.6	50.0	59.5	50.0	62.4	50.0	59.1	50.0

National Assessment of Education Progress : A national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

Percents of Students

Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	4	1998	4	6	18	23	33	32	45	39
Writing	8	1998	0	1	15	23	64	59	21	17
Mathematics	4	2000	2	3	16	23	42	43	40	31

DISTRICT PROFILE

INDICATORS OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

	This District	Change from Last Year	Districts With Students Like Ours	Median District
DISTRICT				
• Dollars per student	\$5,965	N/A	\$6,269	\$6,464
• Prime instructional time	89.5%	Down from 90.5%	89.5%	89.4%
• Student-teacher ratio	20.5 to 1	N/A	21.1 to 1	20.2 to 1
• Vacancies for more than nine weeks	1.8%	N/A	0.4%	0.6%
STUDENTS (n=13,686)				
• Advanced placement/ int'l baccalaureate program exam success ratio	48.7%	N/A	50.5%	43.8%
• Attendance Rate	95.1%	Down from 95.5%	95.7%	95.7%
• Taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	4.4%	N/A	4.4%	5.8%
• Taking PACT (Math) off grade level	4.5%	N/A	3.9%	4.5%
• Retention rate	7.8%	Up from 5.5%	5.9%	6.0%
TEACHERS (n=985)				
• Professional development days per teacher	7.3 Days	Up from 7	7.5 Days	7.8 Days
• Attendance rate	95.5%	Down from 96%	95.3%	95.2%
• Advanced Degrees	44.6%	Down from 46.2%	44.6%	44.4%
• Continuing contracts	78.8%	Down from 87.2%	81.5%	81.4%
• Out-of-field permits	2%	Up from 0.1%	2%	2.2%
• Teachers returning from the previous year	86.9%	Down from 88.9%	90.4%	89.5%
• Average salary	\$36,108	Up 3.6%	\$37,882	\$37,143

DISTRICT FACTS

DISTRICT				
• Annual dropout rate	4.1%	Down from 4.2%	3%	2.9%
• Percentage spent on teacher salaries	50.2%	N/A	51.1%	50.9%
• Superintendent's years in the district	3	N/A	4.5	3.5
• Parent conferences	82.8%	N/A	82.8%	81.0%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	N/A	Excellent	Excellent
• Number of schools	20	No change	15	8
• Number of alternative schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of magnet schools	0	N/A	0	0
• Portable classrooms	8.9%	N/A	7.6%	6.5%
• Attendance rate of district office staff	96%	No change	97.7%	97.5%
• Average administrative salary	\$58,859	Up 3.9%	\$65,153	\$64,098
STUDENTS				
• Enrollment in adult education GED or diploma programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Percent of completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Suspensions and expulsions	242	N/A	169	100
• Percent eligible for state gifted and talented programs	8.2%	Down from 9.7%	14.1%	10.5%
• Percentage with disabilities other than speech	10.4%	Up from 9.7%	10.4%	10.5%

Florence 1 School District
319 South Dargan Street
Florence, SC 29506

Grades K-12

Enrollment: 13,686 Students

Superintendent Joseph Staton Nelson 843-673-1106

Board Chair Doris D. Lockhart 843-662-9907

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual District Report Card	2001
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DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Impelled by the focus to accommodate the needs of all of its learners, Florence School District One has remained true to its mission: to prepare students to become life-long learners and responsible citizens.

Our most recent school renewal plan lists goals for Florence School District One. Our stakeholders, including Florence community members, parents, teachers, principals and school improvement council members wrote it. The plan outlines strategies to meet the goals, which directly relate to our strengths and challenges.

Our strengths include: dedicated faculty and staff members who are holders of state and national awards; an increase in the number of teachers who have applied for national board certification; outstanding students who excel both academically and athletically; students who bring home honors in state, regional and national competitions; exemplary programs designed for students from the International Baccalaureate Program to the award winning performing and visual arts programs; an emphasis on character education supported by the Florence municipality; students who are receiving advanced technological skills; a strong, active and supportive business community; hundreds of school volunteers; and school parent/teacher organizations which complement the quality of life for our students and teachers.

While we are proud of our accomplishments, we are challenged by the need to continue to increase our students' scores on standardized tests from the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) to the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT). Even though there is strength in our diversity across the school district, we are yet challenged by the need to continue to improve indicators of school performance at every level in all schools and to increase our community's support for each school in its quest to achieve an excellent rating. Adequate funding to maintain and implement programs also continues to be a challenge for our schools.

I call upon our staff and school community to continue to support the efforts of this great school district by assisting us in addressing the challenges mentioned. Through parental involvement, service on task forces, focus groups and participation at upcoming forums around the district, we will together make Florence School District One the best that it can possibly be for all children.

South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at

www.myscschools.com